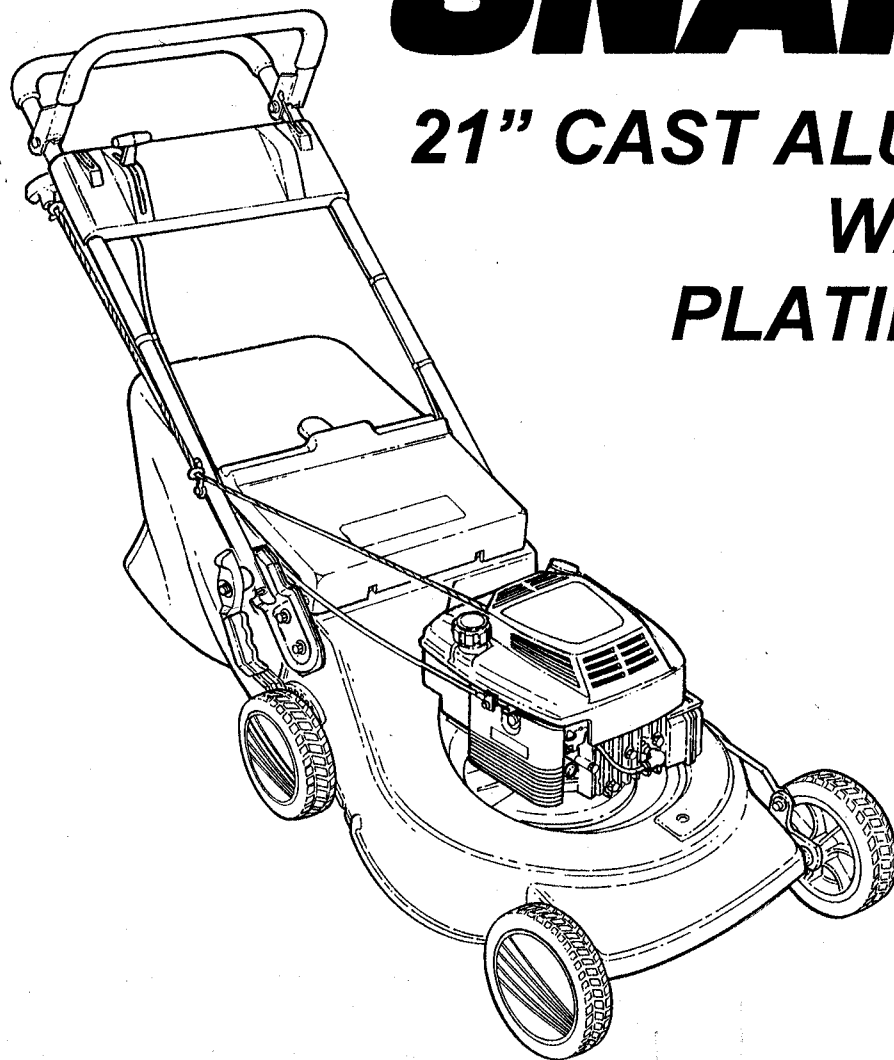


Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

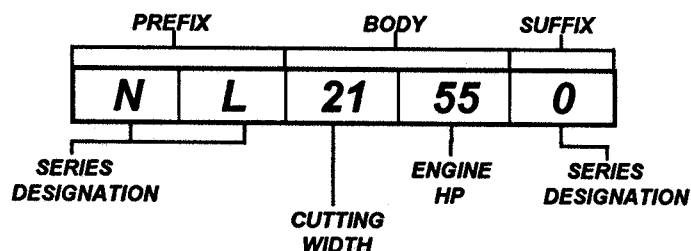
SNAPPER®

21" CAST ALUMINUM DECK WALK MOWERS PLATINUM SERIES 0



MODELS
PUSH MODELS
L21550
NL21550
L21600

MODEL NUMBER EXPLANATION



PREFIX EXPLANATION	
P - Self Propelled Mower	N - California Model
L - Platinum	E - European Model
BODY EXPLANATION	
21 - 21" Cutting Width	55 - 5.5 HP Engine
	60 - 6.0 HP Engine
SUFFIX EXPLANATION	
0 - Series Designation	

Thank you for buying a SNAPPER Product! Before operating your Walk Behind, read this manual carefully and pay particular attention to the "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on Page 2. Remember that all power equipment can be dangerous if used improperly. Also keep in mind that SAFETY requires careful use in accordance with the operating instructions and common sense

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: This powerful machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and can throw objects that can cause injury and damage! Failure to comply with the following instructions may result in serious injury to the operator or other persons. The owner of the mower must understand these instructions and, furthermore, must allow only persons who understand these instructions to operate mower. Each person operating the mower must be of sound mind and body and must not be under the influence of any substance which might impair vision, dexterity, or judgment. If you have any questions pertaining to your mower which your dealer cannot answer to your satisfaction, call or write the Customer Service Department at SNAPPER, McDonough, Georgia, 30253. Phone: (770) 954-2500.

PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

1. DO NOT allow children in area when mower is being operated.
2. DO NOT allow pre-teenage children to operate mower.
3. Allow only responsible teenagers with mature judgment or adults to operate mower and only under close supervision.
4. Keep the area clear of all persons, particularly small children, and pets.

PREPARATION

1. Never operate mower without proper guards, plates, safety switches, or other safety protective devices in place and properly connected. Inspect to determine that these safety devices are installed properly, are in good repair, and operate properly. If the condition or operation of these devices are questionable, they must be repaired or replaced before using the mower. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and proper use of the equipment.
2. Thoroughly inspect the area where the mower is to be used and remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones and other foreign objects. Also note the location of holes, stumps, and other possible hazards.
3. DO NOT operate mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial footwear and long pants.
4. Fill fuel tank before starting engine. Use approved fuel container. DO NOT smoke near open fuel container. DO NOT fill fuel tank indoors or when engine is running. Allow engine to cool for at least ten minutes before refilling. Wipe off any spilled fuel before starting engine. DO NOT run engine indoors.
5. Make sure that the wheel drive clutch control is disengaged before starting engine.
6. Never attempt to make a cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
7. When mowing over rough ground or in tall grass, mower must be set at highest cutting position.
8. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
9. Never operate mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk; never run!
10. DO NOT operate mower without the grass bag (and adapter), side chute, mulch cover or adapter plug in place.

OPERATION

1. DO NOT change engine governor settings or over speed engine.
2. DO NOT put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge area while engine is running.
3. STOP engine when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads, and under any conditions where thrown objects might be a hazard.
4. After striking a foreign object or if mower vibrates abnormally, STOP the engine, disconnect and secure spark plug wire. Inspect the mower for any damage and repair the damage.
5. STOP blade and engine whenever you leave the operating position behind the handle for any reason, including clearing grass, emptying grass bag and making any adjustments, repairs, or inspections.
6. Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting, make certain blade and all moving parts have STOPPED. Disconnect and secure spark plug wire away from plug to prevent accidental starting.
7. STOP engine and wait until the blade comes to complete STOP before removing grass bag and/or clearing grass.
8. Mow across slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise CAUTION when changing directions on slopes. DO NOT mow steep slopes or other areas where stability or traction is in doubt.

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

1. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure mower is in safe operating condition.
2. Never store mower with fuel in tank inside of a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
3. To reduce fire hazard, keep mower free of grass, leaves, spilled fuel or excessive grease.
4. Check grass bag assembly frequently for wear or deterioration. Replace with new bag if loose seams or tears are evident. Replace slider or bag adapter if broken or cracked.
5. Have your mower inspected and serviced each year by an authorized Snapper dealer. Determine if any additional devices are available which might upgrade the safety of your mower.
6. Factory specified Snapper replacement parts must be used to assure adequate protection against injury.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.....	2
FAMILIARIZATION.....	4-5
Serial & Model Number Location.....	4
Controls.....	4
Components.....	5
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS.....	6-9
Pre-Start Checklist.....	6
Adjusting Handlebar.....	6
Starting & Stopping Engine.....	7
Setting Cutting Height.....	8
Grass Catcher.....	8
Mowing Procedure.....	9
Available Accessories.....	9
TROUBLESHOOTING.....	10
MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS.....	11-15
Service Schedule.....	11
Maintenance Parts.....	11
Changing Engine Oil.....	12
Mower Service.....	12-13
Engine Air Cleaner.....	12
Spark Plug.....	12
Engine Cooling System.....	12
Mower Deck.....	13
Mower Blade Service.....	13-15
Blade Wear Limits.....	13
Blade Removal/Replacement.....	13-14
Sharpening Mower Blade.....	14-15
End of Season Storage.....	15
WARRANTY.....	Back Cover

FAMILIARIZATION

SERIAL & MODEL NUMBER LOCATION

The Serial and model number of the SNAPPER Platinum Series Walk Behind Mower Series 0, is located behind the engine on the discharge tunnel of the mower deck as shown in Figure 1. Record these numbers in the space provided. They will be useful when ordering parts or accessories.

MODEL NUMBER
SERIAL NUMBER

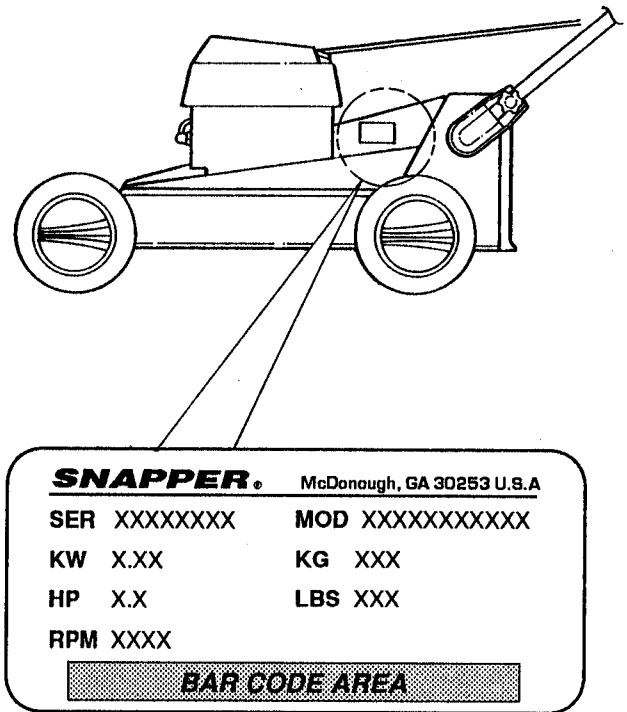


FIGURE 1

CONTROLS

All operators should become familiar with the controls of the SNAPPER Platinum Series Walk Behind Mower, Series 0 before attempting any start up or operation of the mower. See Figure 2.

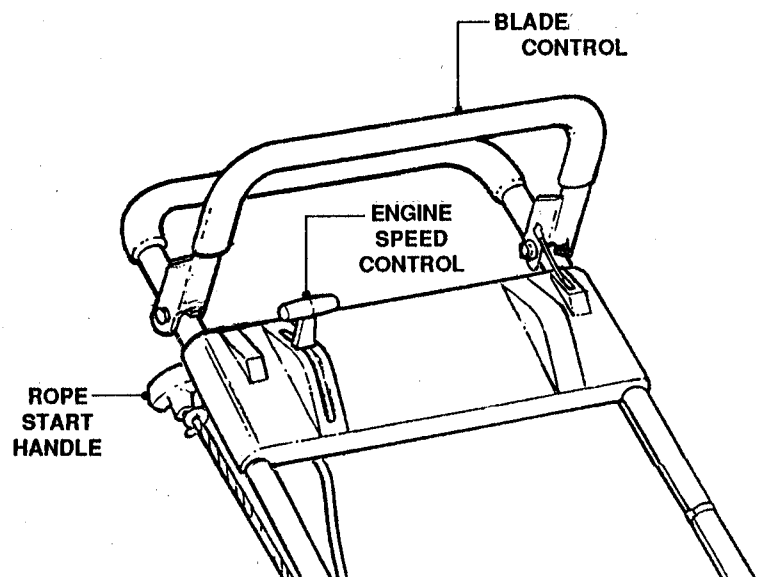


FIGURE 2

FAMILIARIZATION

COMPONENTS

The nomenclature drawing Figure 3, points out the essential components of the SNAPPER Platinum Series Walk Behind Mowers, Series 0. It is recommended that all operators of this equipment become thoroughly familiar with the components and their operation BEFORE OPERATING. Specific details involving the engine are found in the separate Engine Owner's Manual. Study this Operator's Manual, the Important Safety Instructions, on page 3, and the Engine Owner's Manual before operating and keep both manuals handy for future reference.

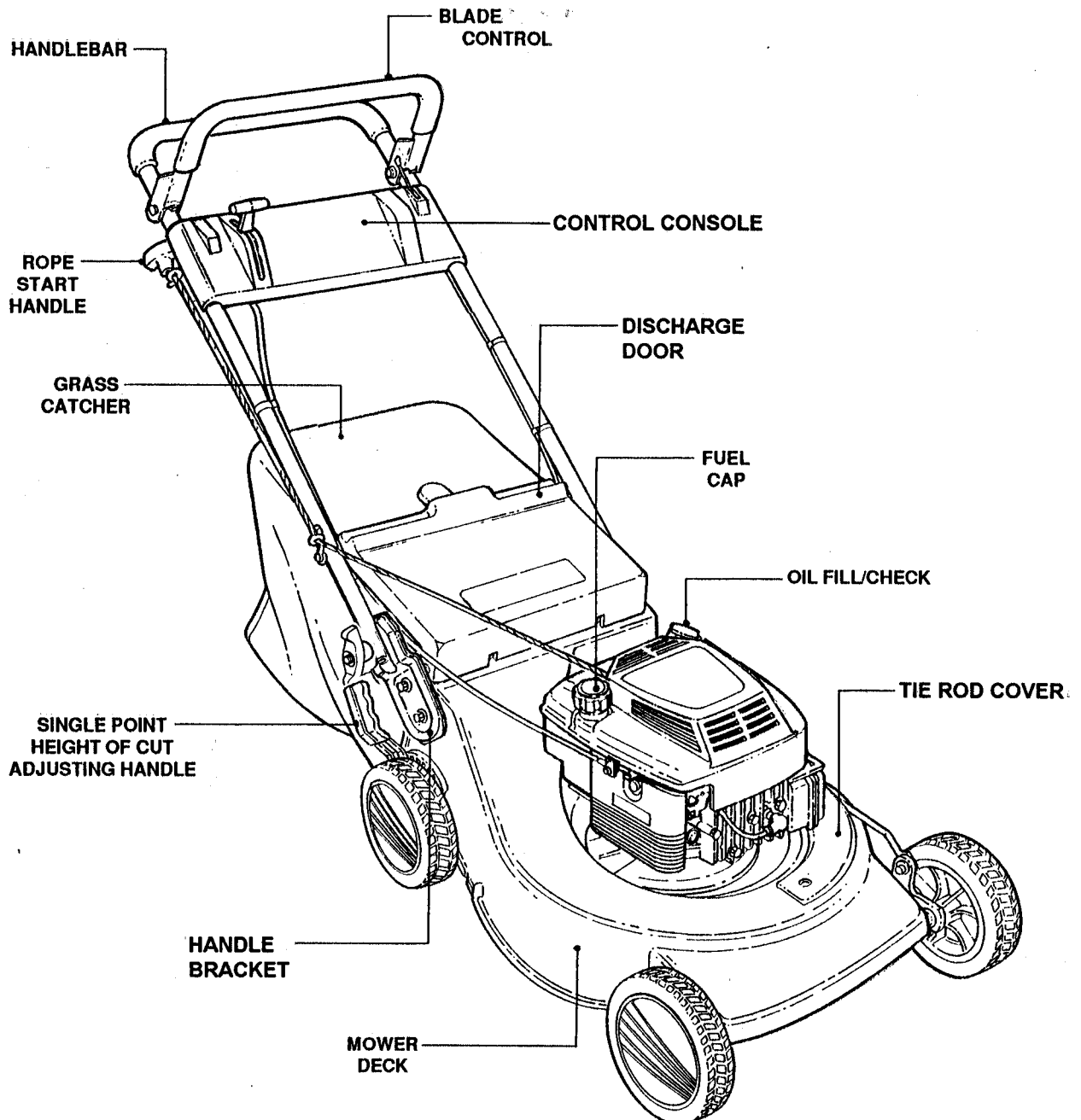


FIGURE 3

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

PRE-START CHECKLIST

Make the following checks and perform service as required before each start-up.

Check guards, deflectors and covers to make sure all are in place and securely tightened. If guards are missing or damaged, replace before operating mower.

Check engine oil. Add oil as needed to bring up to, but not over, the full mark. Refer to the engine owner's manual for oil specifications.

Check handlebar adjustment. Adjust as necessary.

Clean exterior surfaces of cutting deck and engine from any accumulation of grass clippings and debris. Keep engine air intake screens and cooling fins clean at all times.

With engine "OFF" move the mower outside and add fuel to the fuel tank. Securely tighten fuel cap after refueling. See Figure 4. Refer to engine owner's manual for fuel specifications.

Check blade control to insure it operates freely.

Check cutting height and adjust as required.

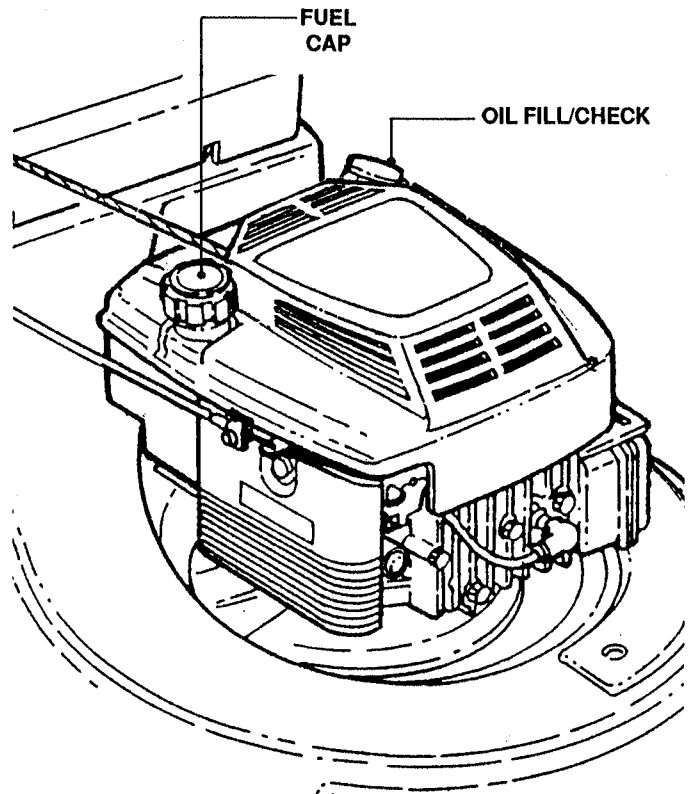


FIGURE 4

ADJUSTING HANDLEBAR

Loosen handle bracket mounting nuts. See Figure 5.

Raise or lower handlebar to most comfortable position. See Figure 5.

Torque mounting nuts to 18-23 ft. lbs.

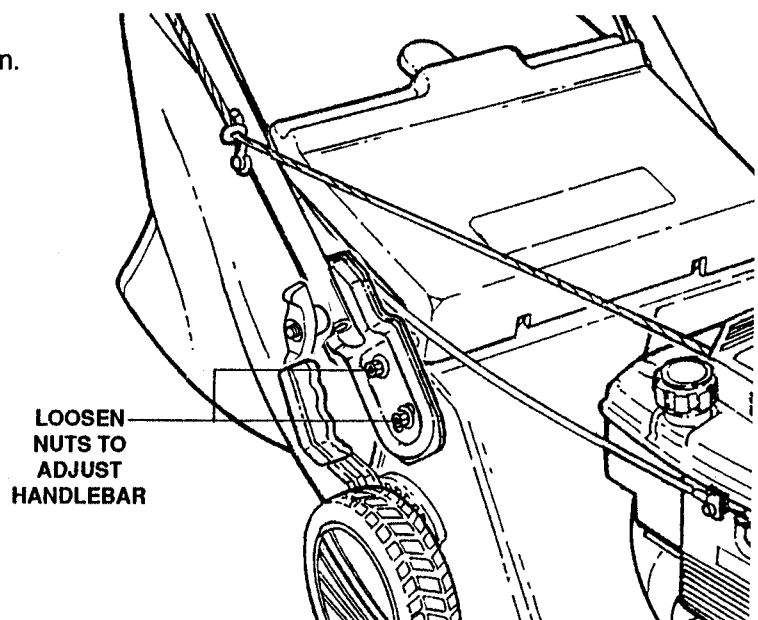


FIGURE 5

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

STARTING & STOPPING ENGINE

STARTING ENGINE

Push the mower outside.

Push primer bulb three times for starting a cold engine.
See Figure 6.

NOTE:

It may not be necessary to push primer when starting a warm engine.

Stand behind mower.

To start the engine, move speed control to the "RUN" position. See Figure 7.

Hold the blade control against the handlebar. See Figure 7.

Pull rope start handle with a smooth, even motion until engine starts. See Figure 8.

After engine starts, guide the rope start handle back to the rope guide. Never allow handle to "SNAP" back.

Allow engine to warm up until engine runs smooth.

STOPPING ENGINE

Move engine speed control to the "IDLE" position. See Figure 7.

Release the blade control to stop engine. See Figure 7.

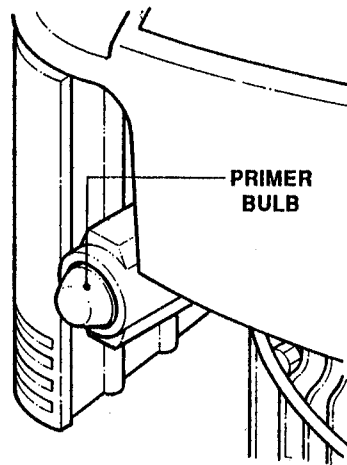


FIGURE 6

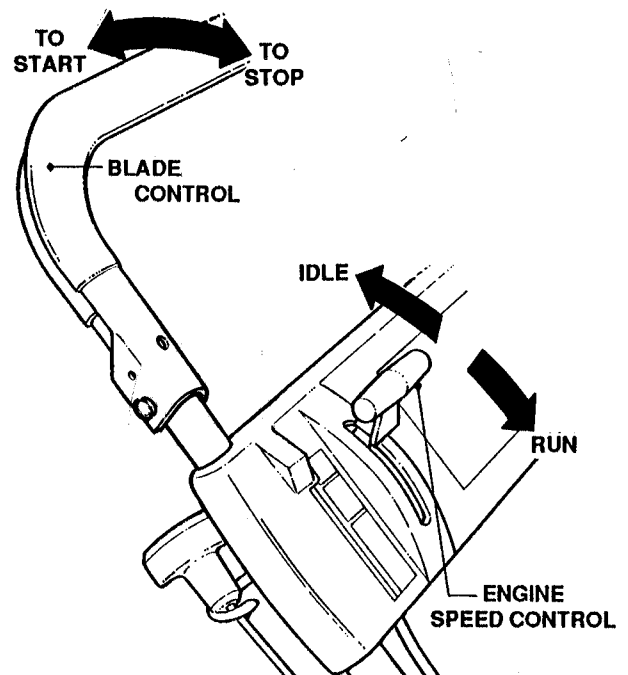


FIGURE 7



WARNING



The engine cannot be stopped by moving the engine speed control all the way back.

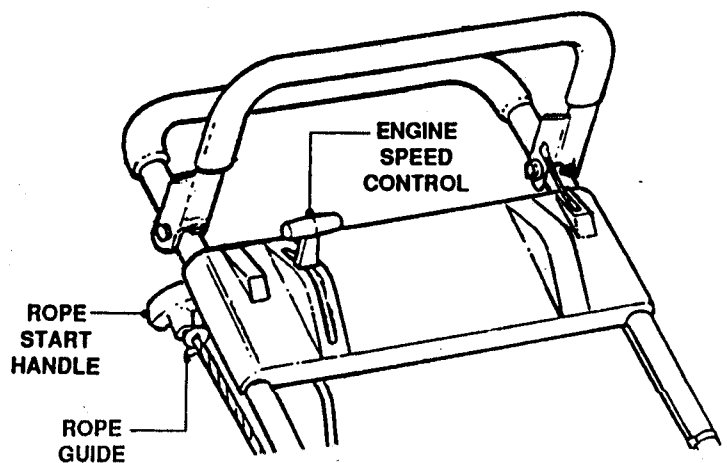


FIGURE 8

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

SETTING CUTTING HEIGHT

CAUTION
Stop engine and mower blade by releasing the blade control before adjusting cutting height.

Move to right rear tire and pull adjusting handle out until adjusting handle tab is just clear of the slotted plate. See Figure 9.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT flex the adjusting handle outward beyond what is required to change cutting height. Pulling out to far may cause damage to the handle.

Move the adjusting handle towards front of mower for higher cut or toward rear for lower cut. See Figure 9.

The SNAPPER Platinum Series Walk Behind Mower, Series 0, has eleven cutting positions ranging from 1" to 4". See Figure 10.

Reinstall spark plug wire onto spark plug and start the engine to resume mowing.

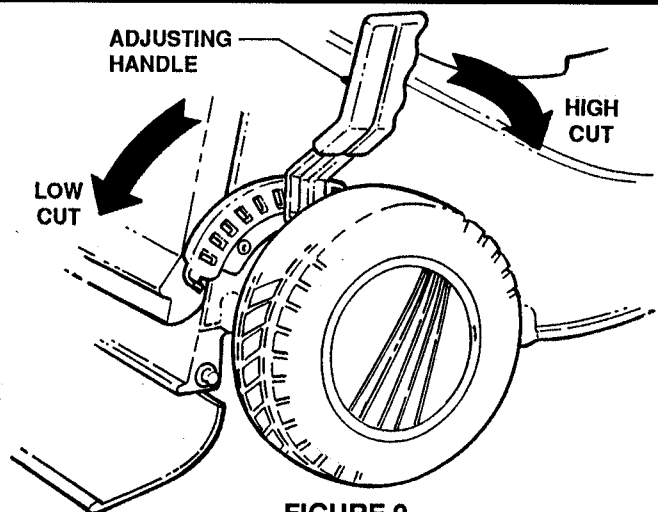


FIGURE 9

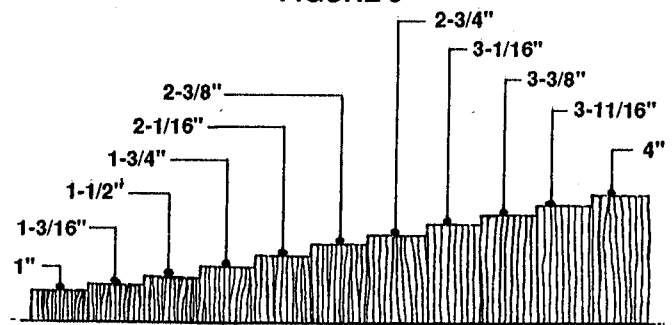


FIGURE 10

GRASS CATCHER

GRASS CATCHER REMOVAL

Move engine speed control to "IDLE" and stop engine by releasing blade control.

Lift Discharge Door

Grasp grass catcher handle and lift to clear tabs and pull clear of mower. See Figure 11. Then, lower discharge door.

Dispose of grass clippings properly.

Reinstall grass catcher in reverse order of removal. See Figure 11.

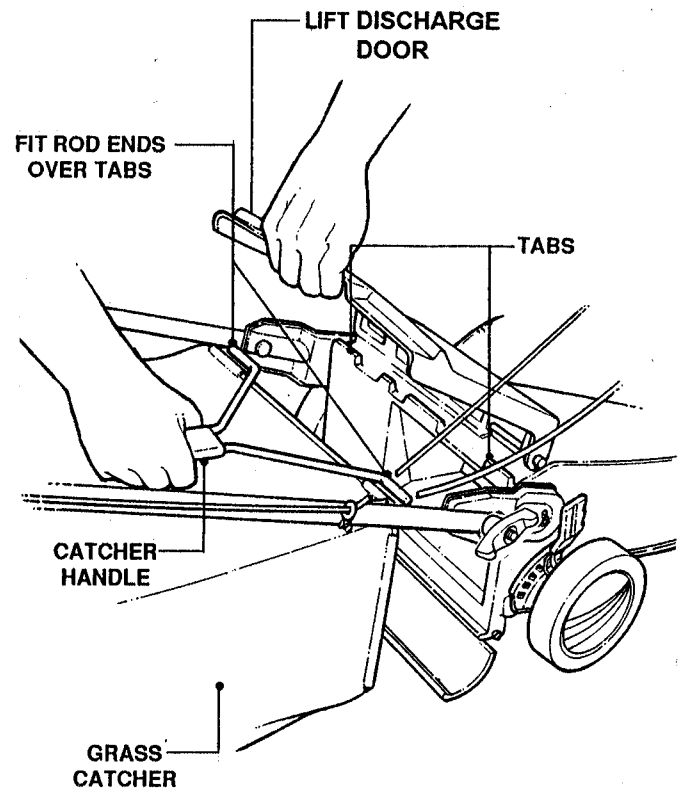


FIGURE 11

WARNING
Never attempt to operate mower without grass catcher, side discharge chute or mulching plug properly in place properly in place.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

MOWING PROCEDURE

For best results, use the following tips when mowing.

When mowing, cut only 1/3 of grass height. Cutting grass shorter could be harmful to your lawn.

If cutting extremely tall grass, make one cutting with the deck in its highest cutting position, then lower deck to desired position and cut a second time.

Mow when lawn is dry.

Mow often. Shorter grass clippings decompose quicker.

Keep mower blades sharp. A dull blade tears and shreds grass instead of cutting. Your SNAPPER dealer can sharpen blades as required.

Alternate mowing pattern to reduce the possibility of grass matting.

Mow with engine speed control in the "RUN" position and push the mower at a slow to moderate speed.

Clean deck, removing all grass clippings and debris from the top and underside of deck after each use.

AVAILABLE ACCESSORIES

The SNAPPER Platinum Series Walk Mower, Series 0, can be equipped with a variety of accessories that increase its versatility. The accessories available for each model are listed in the chart below. Contact an authorized SNAPPER dealer for ordering any of the accessories desired.

MOWER MODEL	SIDE DISCHARGE CHUTE KIT	MULCHING KIT
L21550	6-1397	6-1779
NL21550	6-1397	6-1779
L21600	6-1397	--

TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	PROBABLE CAUSE	CORRECTIVE ACTION	REF.
ENGINE WILL NOT START	1. Blade/engine control in released position.	1. Move blade/engine control to handlebar.	Pg. 7
	2. Fuel tank empty.	2. Fill fuel tank with fresh fuel.	Pg. 6
	3. Engine needs priming.	3. Prime engine.	Pg. 7
	4. Spark plug wire disconnected	4. Place spark plug wire onto spark plug.	Engine Man.
ENGINE STALLS OR ENGINE LOSES POWER	1. Blade/engine control released.	1. Pull blade/engine control to handlebar and restart engine.	Pg. 7
	2. Fuel tank empty.	2. Refill fuel tank with fresh fuel.	Pg. 6
	3. Engine air cleaner dirty.	3. Clean or replace filter.	Engine Man.
	4. Spark plug defective or gap set improperly.	4. Service spark plug.	Engine Man.
	5. Water, debris or stale fuel in fuel system.	5. Drain and clean fuel system.	Engine Man.
	6. Excessive load on engine.	6. Lessen load.	—
	7. Engine oil level low.	7. Fill with engine oil to proper level.	Engine Man.
	8. Engine cooling fins and air screens excessively dirty.	8. Clean free of all dirt and debris.	Engine Man.
ENGINE BACKFIRES WHEN ENGINE IS STOPPED	1. Engine speed control set too fast.	1. Set engine speed control to "IDLE" and allow engine to idle. Then, release blade/engine control.	Pg. 7
EXCESSIVE VIBRATION	1. Damaged or bent mower blade.	1. Service mower blade.	Pg. 13-15
	2. Loose blade components.	2. Service blade and tighten loose parts.	Pg. 13-15
CUTTING GRASS IMPROPERLY	1. Cutting height too low or high.	1. Adjust cutting height.	Pg. 8/9
	2. Engine speed too slow.	2. Move engine speed control to "RUN".	Pg. 7/9
	3. Forward speed too fast.	3. Push mower slower.	Pg. 9
POOR GRASS DISCHARGE	1. Engine speed too slow.	1. Move engine speed control to "RUN".	Pg. 7/9
	2. Forward speed too fast.	2. Push mower slower.	Pg. 9
	3. Grass is wet.	3. Mow when grass is dry.	Pg. 9
	4. Excessively worn or damaged blade.	4. Service mower blade.	Pg. 13-15
	5. Build-up of grass clippings and debris under deck.	5. Clean deck.	Pg. 9/13
	6. Improper blade installed on deck.	6. Install proper SNAPPER blade.	Pg. 11, 13-15
	7. Blade installed improperly on deck.	7. Install blade properly.	Pg. 13-15

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

SERVICE SCHEDULE

ITEM	SERVICE PERFORMED	REF.	EACH USE	5 HOURS	25 HOURS	50 HOURS	100 HOURS	EACH SEASON
Engine Oil	Check Oil Level	Pg. 6	X					
	Initial Oil Change	Pg. 12		X				
	Periodic Oil Change	Pg. 12				X*		X
Air Cleaner	Clean or Replace	Pg. 12			X**			X
Spark Plug	Replace	Eng. Man.					X	X
Engine Cooling System	Clean Engine Shroud	Eng. Man.				X**		X
	Clean Cooling Fins	Eng. Man.				XX**		X
Mower Blade	Check for Wear and Damage	Pg. 13			X			X
Mower Deck	Check Debris Accumulation	Pg. 13	X		X			X
	Clean Outside & Underside	Pg. 13	X		X			X

* Change oil every 25 hours when operating under heavy load or high temperatures.

** Clean more often under dusty conditions or when air debris is present.
Replace air cleaner parts if very dirty.

MAINTENANCE PARTS

BLADES		
MOWER MODEL	GRASS BAGGING	GRASS BAGGING / MULCHING
L21550	2-6427	2-6428
NL21550	2-6427	2-6428
L21600	2-6427	2-6428

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

CHANGING ENGINE OIL

Move mower to a firm, level surface.

Stop engine.

Remove spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from plug.

Remove grass catcher.

Raise front of mower to stand mower on rear wheels.

Place a 2 quart capacity, flat container under mower deck.

Remove oil plug. See Figure 12.

Lower front wheels to ground and allow oil to drain into container.

Lift front of mower and replace oil plug.

Fill engine with new oil as specified in Engine Owner's Manual.

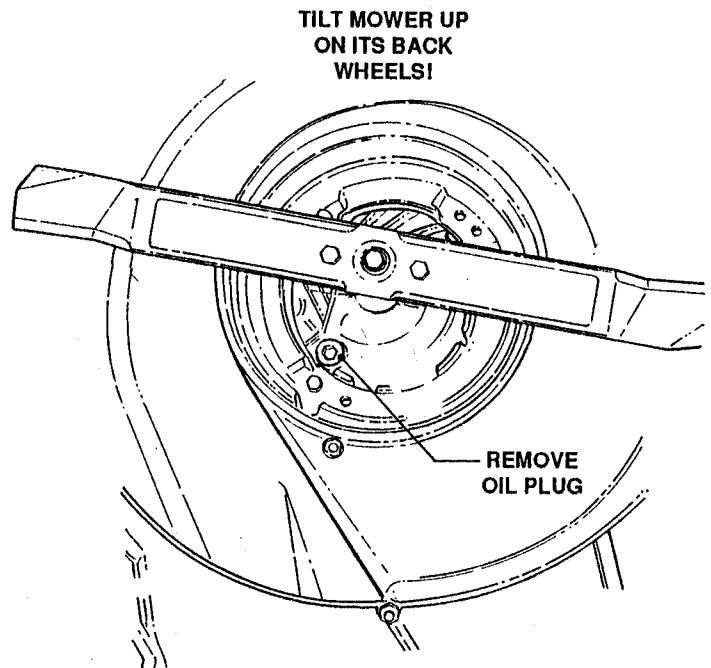


FIGURE 12

MOWER SERVICE

The components listed should be serviced on a regular basis to insure that they are in top working condition. Refer to SERVICE SCHEDULE on Page 11 for recommended service intervals.

ENGINE AIR CLEANER

The engine air cleaner element should be removed and replaced every 25 operating hours. See Figure 13 and refer to the engine owner's manual. Contact engine manufacturer's dealer for correct replacement air cleaner element.

SPARK PLUG

Remove and replace engine spark plug after 100 operating hours or each season, whichever comes first. Refer to Engine Owner's Manual for correct replacement plug and gap specifications

ENGINE COOLING SYSTEM

The engine cooling system consists of an engine shroud and engine fins. These should be kept clean and free of debris as needed or clean at least every 50 operating hours.

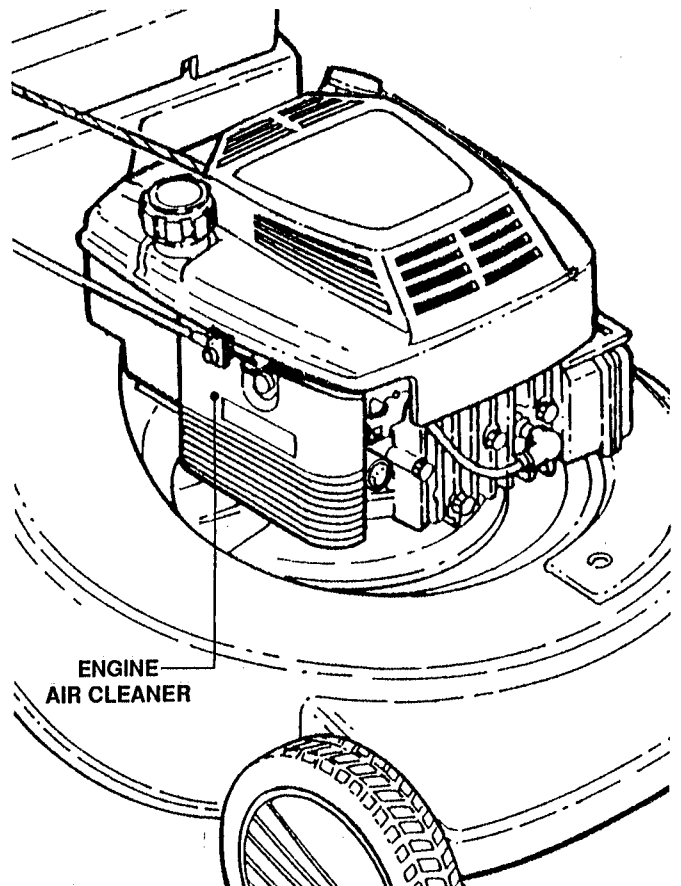


FIGURE 13

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

MOWER SERVICE Continued

MOWER DECK

The mower deck should be cleaned after each use as follows:

Stop engine, remove spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from plug.

Remove the grass catcher bag.

Stand mower on rear wheels and scrape off all accumulation of grass clippings and debris from the underside of the deck.

Using a garden hose wash the underside of the deck.

Lower mower to ground and remove the tie rod cover. See Figure 14.

Clean out all debris and wash out with garden hose. After cleaning is complete reinstall cover and place spark plug wire onto spark plug.

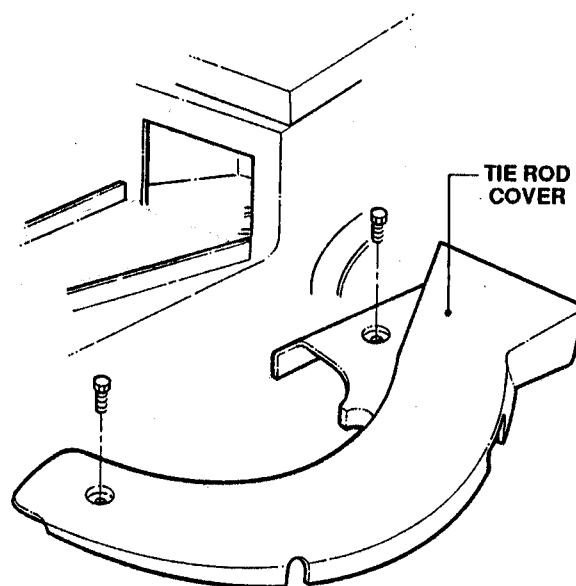


FIGURE 14

MOWER BLADE SERVICE

BLADE WEAR LIMITS

The mower blade should be checked frequently for signs of excessive wear and damage. Figure 15 illustrates the wear limits of the mower blade. Service the blade as often as necessary to insure optimum cutting performance. Refer to Service Schedule on page 11.

BLADE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT

Move mower to a firm, level surface.

Stop engine.

Remove spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from plug.

Remove grass catcher.

Stand mower on rear wheels.

Remove the two blade mounting screws and nylon lock nuts. See Figure 16.

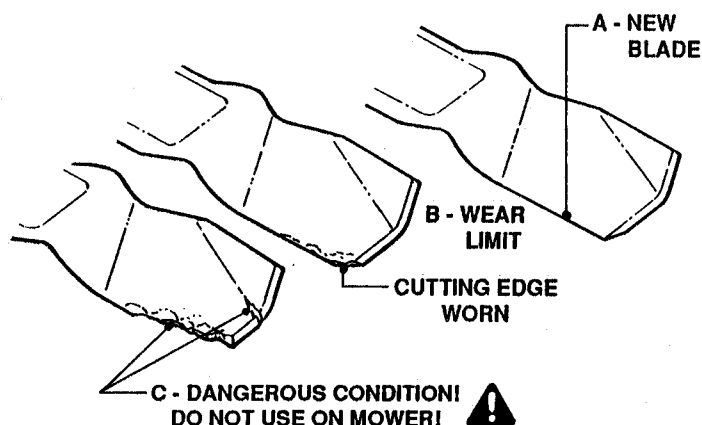


FIGURE 15

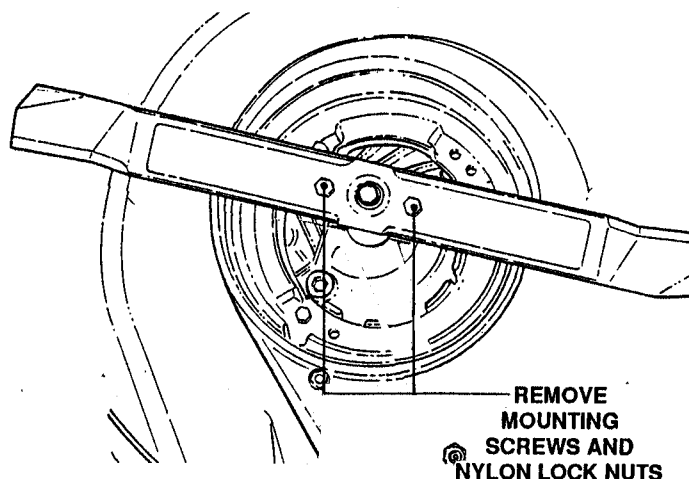


FIGURE 16

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

MOWER BLADE SERVICE Continued

Remove blade and inspect for excessive wear and damage. Refer to Figure 15 for blade wear limits.



WARNING



Never use a blade that shows signs of excessive wear or damage. Refer to Figure 15 for blade wear limits.

Install new blade, refer to the Maintenance Parts chart on page 11 for the appropriate blade part number, onto blade hub. See Figure 17.



CAUTION



Install blade with flanges down. See Figure 17.

Install blade mounting screws and new nylon lock nuts, See Figure 17.

Torque blade mounting screws and nuts to 30-37 ft. lbs.

Lower front of mower to ground and install grass catcher.

Place spark plug wire onto spark plug.

SHARPENING MOWER BLADE

Move mower to a firm, level surface.

Stop engine, remove spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from plug.

Remove grass catcher and stand mower on rear wheels.

Remove the two blade mounting screws and nylon lock nuts. See Figure 17.

Remove blade and inspect for excessive wear and damage. Refer to Figure 15 for blade wear limits.

Sharpen mower blade at 25° angle. Grind bottom of blade to sharpen. See Figure 18.

Check balance of blade. Grind heavy end of blade to achieve balance.

NOTE:

Blade balancers are available and should be used according to the manufactures instructions.

Install blade onto blade hub. See Figure 17.

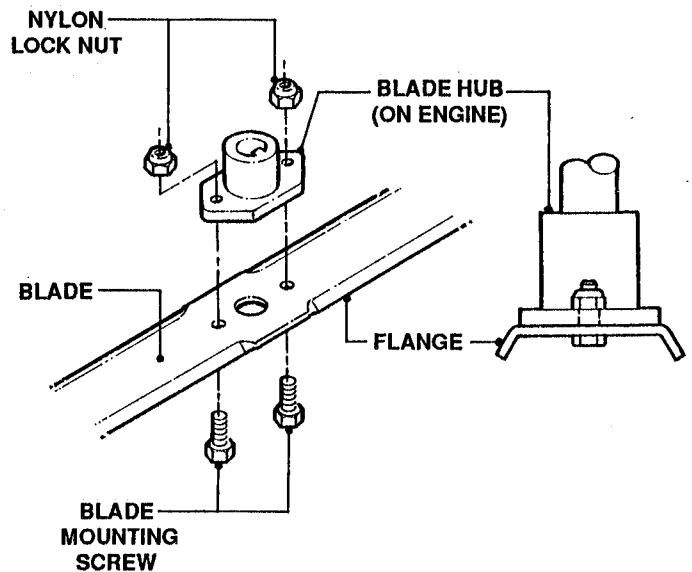


FIGURE 17

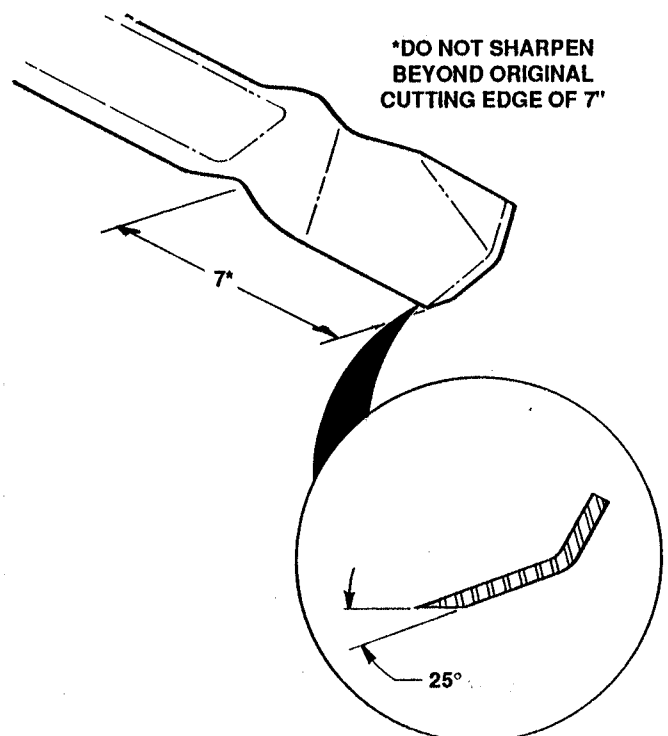


FIGURE 18

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

MOWER BLADE SERVICE Continued



CAUTION



Install blade with flanges down. Refer to Figure 17 for proper installation.

Install blade mounting screws and nylon lock nuts. See Figure 17. Torque blade mounting bolts and nuts to 30-37 ft. lbs.

Lower front of mower to ground, install grass catcher and place spark plug wire onto spark plug.

END OF SEASON STORAGE

Prepare the SNAPPER Platinum Series Walk Mower, Series 0, for end of season storage as follows:

Drain fuel from fuel tank. Start engine and run until engine runs out of fuel.

Change engine oil. Refer to page 12.

Change engine air filter. Refer to engine owner's manual.

Remove grass catcher and empty all contents to prevent decay and mold. The grass catcher may be washed in detergent, but rinse thoroughly and allow to dry.

Remove tie rod cover and clean out all debris from areas concealed by the tie rod cover. See Figure 19.

Clean underside of deck free of all grass accumulation using a brush and scraper. Refer to page 13.

Wash down entire mower and allow to dry.

Reinstall the tie rod cover and secure with the two retaining screws. See Figure 19.

Move all cables above handle knobs. Loosen handle knobs connecting handlebar to the handlebar support. See Figure 20.

Carefully fold handlebar over engine and move mower to desired storage site.

IMPORTANT: Be careful not to allow cables to hang up or become kinked when folding handles.

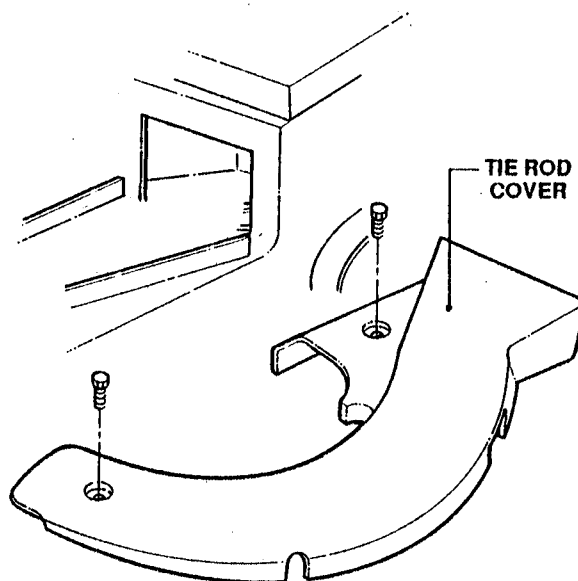


FIGURE 19

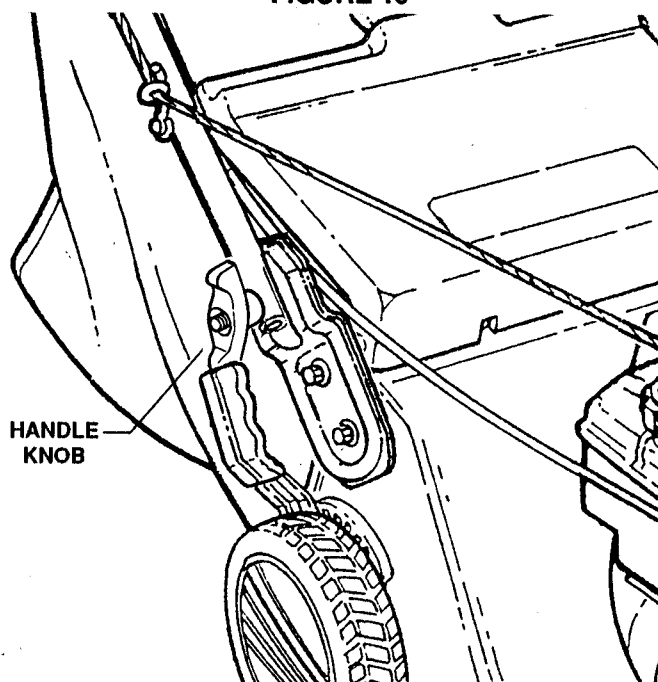


FIGURE 20

SNAPPER®

2 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

For two (2) years from purchase date for the original purchaser's residential, non-commercial use, SNAPPER, through any SNAPPER dealer will replace, free of charge (except for taxes where applicable), any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

For ninety (90) days from purchase date for the original purchaser's commercial, rental, or other non-residential use, SNAPPER, through any SNAPPER dealer will replace, free of charge, any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

All transportation costs incurred by the purchaser in submitting material to a SNAPPER dealer for replacement under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser.

This warranty does not apply to engines and their components, hydro transmissions, gear drive transmissions and batteries, as these items are warranted separately. This warranty does not apply to parts that have been damaged by accident, alteration, abuse, improper lubrication, normal wear, or other cause beyond our control.

There is no other express warranty.

Implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to two (2) years from purchase date for the original purchaser's residential, non-commercial use [ninety (90) days from purchase for the original purchaser's commercial, rental or other non-residential use], and to the extent permitted by law, any and all implied warranties are excluded. This is the exclusive remedy. Liabilities for consequential damages, under any and all warranties are excluded.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

WARNING: THE USE OF REPLACEMENT PARTS OTHER THAN GENUINE SNAPPER PARTS MAY IMPAIR THE SAFETY OF SNAPPER PRODUCTS AND WILL VOID ANY LIABILITY AND WARRANTY BY SNAPPER ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SUCH PARTS.

IMPORTANT: Please fill out the attached SNAPPER Product Registration Card immediately and mail to:
SNAPPER, McDONOUGH, GEORGIA 30253

Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

SNAPPER®

**21" CAST ALUMINUM DECK
WALK MOWERS
PLATINUM SERIES 0**

⚠ WARNING: The engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

SNAPPER® McDonough, GA., 30253 U.S.A.

MANUAL No. 2-8446 (REV. 1, 8/96)